

**SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2019**

Special Meeting of the City Council was held in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall, on Monday evening, August 12, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Scott Joseph Graves called the meeting to order at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

City Clerk Alan Agnelli called the Roll of Members. Seven (7) Councillors were present including President Scott Joseph Graves and Councillors Ronald Cormier, Karen Hardern, Christine Johnson, James Johnson, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and James Walsh. Councillor Nathan Boudreau arrived at 6:10 p.m. Councillors James Boone, Craig Cormier, and Edward Gravel were absent.

OPEN MEETING RECORDING & PUBLIC RECORDS ANNOUNCEMENT

President Graves announced to the assembly that the Open Meeting Recording and Public Records Announcement is posted at the entrance to the Chamber, and that any person planning to record the meeting by any means should identify themselves.

#10154

Reporting for the Finance Committee, Councillor Ronald Cormier informed the Council that the impending vacancies in the positions of City Treasurer and City Collector of Taxes were advertised and that many applications were received. With the consent of the Council, the Finance Committee whittled to four the number of applicants for interviews, those applicants that the Committee determined to have the qualifications and/or experience required of the positions. Continuing, he said that one of the applicants was the City's Purchasing Agent, Jennifer Dymek, who met most, if not all, of the qualifications; that the Committee is familiar with her work ethic and experience; and, that she has been an employee of the City for about 17 years.

Councillor Ronald Cormier then nominated Jennifer A. Dymek for the position of City Treasurer for a term expiring August 19, 2022.^[1]

Councillor James Walsh seconded the nomination.

Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas questioned whether Ms. Dymek was notified about her nomination [to the position].

Councillor James Walsh reported that the Human Resources Director will notify the applicants of the results of the Council's election.

Councillor Kazinskas asked whether Ms. Dymek has been informed that she has been chosen.



SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2019

Councillor Walsh responded, stating that Ms. Dymek has yet to be chosen [by the Council]. The Election will decide and then she will be notified if she is elected, he added.

Councillor Kazinskas questioned whether the salary has been negotiated.

Councillor Walsh stated that the City has an Ordinance that specifies the compensation for the position; however, for a number of years, the Finance Committee has asked the Mayor for a Step System for compensation, but the Mayor has indicated to the Committee “that it is too hard to do,” so it hasn’t been done. He added that the Committee is aware that the Mayor is going to discuss compensation with the prospective Treasurer which, he said, may require a change to the Ordinance.

Councillor Kazinskas then questioned whether “it makes sense to elect someone if they haven’t been notified, as well as the others persons that have applied,” and said that she is concerned that the discussion “is public” and questioned if “it [discussion] raises any personnel issues.”

Councillor Ronald Cormier responded, saying “this is an open election,” and “any Councillor could nominate anyone entirely different.” He said that because [the selection process] is [through] an open election, “it is not the Committee’s role to notify the candidate - it is only a recommendation, because it is the Councils’ choice.” He concluded by saying, “The Council cannot notify someone until they are elected. Our role is unique.”

Responding to Councillor Kazinskas’s question, Councillor James Walsh stated that if the elected applicant does not accept the position, then the Council would meet to hold another election.

Councillor Christine Johnson remarked that Ms. Dymek has held several positions within the City since 2003 and has excelled in every position. She added that she is very pleased that the Finance Committee unanimously recommended that she be elected to the position and that Ms. Dymek is a perfect fit and will do very well.

Councillor James Johnson concurred with Councillor Christine Johnson’s remarks and commended the Finance Committee for its diligence in screening and interviewing candidates and making their recommendation.

Councillor Karen Hardern also offered her endorsement for Ms. Dymek.

President Graves informed the Council that the Finance Committee conducted an interview of a fourth applicant immediately prior to the Special Meeting.

There being no further nominations, President Graves entertained a motion to close nominations.



SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2019

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted viva voce, seven (7) yeas, President Scott Graves and Councillors Ronald Cormier, Karen Hardern, Christine Johnson, James Johnson, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and James Walsh, to close nominations.

On call of the roll:

- Councillor Ronald F. Cormier voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
- Councillor Karen G. Hardern voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
- Councillor Christine A. Johnson voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
- Councillor James D. Johnson voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
- Councillor Elizabeth J. Kazinskas voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
- Councillor James M. Walsh voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
- President Scott Joseph Graves voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK

Councillor Nathan R. Boudreau arrived in the Chamber at the close of the roll call.

President Graves asked the Council for permission to allow Councillor Boudreau to cast a late ballot. There were no objections from the floor.

Councillor Nathan R. Boudreau voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK

Having received eight (8) votes, Jennifer A. Dymek was declared elected City Treasurer, effective August 19, 2019, for the term expiring August 19, 2022.

Worcester, ss.

August 14, 2019

Then personally appeared **JENNIFER A. DYMEK** and made oath that she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of City Treasurer according to law and the best of her abilities.

Before me,
/s/ Alan L. Agnelli, City Clerk

^[1] *The first business day following the retirement date of Charline M. Daigle.*

#10155

Reporting for the Finance Committee, Councillor James Walsh informed the Council that although the positions of City Treasurer and City Collector of Taxes are separate positions, they we advertised and interviewed as a single position.

Councillor James Walsh then nominated Jennifer A. Dymek for the position of City Collector of Taxes for a term expiring August 19, 2022. ^[2]

Councillor Ronald Cormier seconded the nomination.

SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2019

There being no further nominations, President Graves entertained a motion to close nominations.

On a motion by Councillor James Johnson and seconded by Councillor James Walsh, it was voted viva voce, eight (8) yeas, President Scott Graves and Councillors Nathan Boudreau, Ronald Cormier, Karen Hardern, Christine Johnson, James Johnson, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and James Walsh, to close nominations.

On call of the roll:

Councillor Nathan R. Boudreau voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
Councillor Ronald F. Cormier voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
Councillor Karen G. Hardern voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
Councillor Christine A. Johnson voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
Councillor James D. Johnson voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
Councillor Elizabeth J. Kazinskas voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
Councillor James M. Walsh voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK
President Scott Joseph Graves voting for JENNIFER A. DYMEK

Having received eight (8) votes, Jennifer A. Dymek was declared elected City Collector of Taxes, effective August 19, 2019, for the term expiring August 19, 2022.

Worcester, ss.

August 14, 2019

Then personally appeared **JENNIFER A. DYMEK** and made oath that she would faithfully and impartially perform the duties of City Collector of Taxes according to law and the best of her abilities.

Before me,
/s/ Alan L. Agnelli, City Clerk

^[2] *The first business day following the retirement date of Charline M. Daigle.*

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor James Walsh and seconded by Councillor Christine Johnson, it was voted viva voce, eight (8) yeas, President Scott Graves and Councillors Nathan Boudreau, Ronald Cormier, Karen Hardern, Christine Johnson, James Johnson, Elizabeth Kazinskas, and James Walsh, to adjourn at 6:12 p.m.

Accepted by the City Council: *September 3, 2019*